

2004 Report of Accomplishments

Benton Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- *Constructed 400 linear feet of streambank stabilization and revegetation along the Lower Yakima River.*
- *Developed 138 Conservation Plan of Operations for 31,000 acres of newly enrolled Conservation Reserve Program acreage.*
- *Began sampling and qualitative characterization of the lower Yakima River Eutrophication Assessment, a five-year study.*
- *Applied ~275 tons of straw on 229 acres of Horse Heaven Hills dryland wheat summer fallow for wind erosion control.*
- *Continued Lower Yakima River tributary water quality monitoring of Spring, Snipes, and Corral Creeks.*



Construction of 'J' Vane on Lower Yakima River

Mission of the Benton Conservation District

- *Advocate for proper use and treatment of renewable natural resources through partnerships and strengthened coalitions with local, county, state and federal agencies, natural resource based entities, and district cooperators.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *Coordination of Amon Creek restoration and protection efforts between the Cities of Kennewick and Richland, Benton County, Kennewick Irrigation district, Tapteal Greenway organization, and various other entities.*
- *Development of planting matrix and future development efforts for portions of Columbia Point located on the Columbia River in Richland, WA. Efforts coordinated with Tapteal Greenway, City of Richland, and Benton County.*
- *Assisted in construction of 400 linear feet of streambank stabilization and revegetation along the Lower Yakima River in cooperation with David and Vali Mitchell, Richland, WA.*
- *Employee development training at WADE conference, support to Inland Empire Youth Natural Resources Camp, and tours of various District projects and future priority project concerns.*

Basic Funding

- *Staff training and District sponsored meetings and workshops with area producers.*
- *Assisted in development of District's priority natural resource concern of wind erosion in the Horse Heaven Hills.*

Professional Engineering

- *Preliminary design concepts for two proposed riverbank erosion project developments, investigation completed and design developed for fish ladders and fish channel on the Amon Creek/Meadow Springs project, and provided follow-up for permits on Mitchell riverbank repair/stabilization project.*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- *Preliminary work completed and CPO's developed for three new CREP contracts totaling ~4 linear miles and ~85 acres.*
- *Initial stream survey of Glade Creek conducted with the Farm Service Agency and project contractors prior to CPO development and contract approval.*
- *Contacts made with ~seven additional interested landowners as well as increased interest from the public due to enhanced publicity of the program.*

Irrigation Efficiencies

- *We have increased efforts toward additional irrigation system conversions, outside of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, with renewed emphasis towards cost-share funding available through the District utilizing funds received from water savings from the City of Boardman and the Berg Brothers existing irrigation projects.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Participation in the Watershed Resource Inventory Area #31 Planning Unit will result in future increased watershed conservation and habitat restoration efforts by the District and planning partners.*
- *The District's partnership with the Benton Conservation Association's annual tree sales has increased the public's awareness, and efforts, towards conservation and habitat restoration needs and requirements.*
- *Approximately 800 acres of GPS determinations were made for land planning, as well as 152 turbidity/ total suspended solids, 40 ortho phosphate/total phosphate, 59 fecal coliform, and 40 nitrate-nitrogen determinations conducted for watershed conditions.*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Efforts have been coordinated and increased to involve all facets of the community in the District's goal for support, and approval, of a local assessment to supplement funding sources.*

Information & Education

- *Over 1414 4th and 5th grade students, and many volunteers, from 25 area elementary schools participated in the Salmon In the Classroom program operated by the District. Two field trips, in addition to the annual salmon release at Horn Rapids on the Yakima River, were also held where 160 students participated in 'Kids in the Creek' and secondary school release.*
- *District sponsored meetings/workshops for area dryland farmers include planning for area wind/dust erosion concerns as well as more economical, effective, and environmentally sensitive chemical weed control practices. Over 30 farmers and 8 representatives from educational and governmental agencies participated in these meetings*
- *11 classroom presentations, reaching 297 students, and 3 teacher workshops, reaching 58 participants, were presented.*
- *43 people attended the BCD Annual Ag Tour.*
- *Three oral presentations, contacting 45 people, were given.*
- *Quarterly newsletters sent to 1760 addresses, outlining the BCD's mission, goals, and current activities, were mailed.*
- *KNDU-TV televised 3 interviews regarding BCD's programs relating to salmon and water quality, and 3 front page color photos accompanying articles on our activities in the district were published by the Tri-City Herald.*
- *Participated in the Inland Empire Natural Resources Youth Camp and registered and coordinated financial aid for 51 campers.*
- *Sponsored display booth at 2004 Ben-Franklin Fair where contacts were made with 220 individuals. The Franklin CD was co-sponsor at the fair*



'Salmon in the Classroom'; annual salmon release at Horn Rapids Park.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.